Royalty on coal

896. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been requested to pay royalty on coal on the basis of its price instead of its weight;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action on these requests; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PADAM SINGH): (a) to (d) Some of the coal producing States have been writing to the Central Government to levy royalty on the basis of price instead of the rates of royalty on coal are fixed on tonnage basis when these rates were revised last on 11.10.1994 a Study Group was constituted for the purpose recommended determination of royalty on tonnage basis and not on advalorem basis.

In terms of Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957, the next revision falls due after 10.10.1997 and therefore, a Study Group has been constituted to go into the question of revision of royalty rates on coal in details and recommend appropriate rates of royalty on coal. The terms of reference of the Study Group includes, interalia, the question of advalorem determination of royalty rates.

कोयला खानों का गैर-सरकारीकरण

897. **श्री जनार्दन यादव:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने कोयला खानें निजी क्षेत्र को देना स्वीकार कर लिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कोयला विभाग के अधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों के भविष्य का क्या होगा; और

(ग) निजी क्षेत्र को कोयला खानें दिये जाने से सरकार को कितना लाभ होगा?

कोयला मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कांति सिंह): (क) सरकार द्वारा वैधानिक परिवर्तनों के अधीन, प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक निविदाओं के आधार पर सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनियों सहित भारतीय कंपनियों को केवल गृहीत उपभोग हेतु कोयला खनन किए जाने पर प्रतिबंध लगाए बिना नए कोयला ब्लॉकों की पेशकश किए जाने का निर्णय लिया गया है।

(ख) सरकार के निर्णय से विद्यमान कोयला कंपनियों के कार्य पर प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा तथा इसके परिणामस्वरूप मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों तथा कर्मचारियों के क्रियाकलापों पर भी इस नीति का प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा।

(ग) सरकार के उपर्युक्त निर्णयों का मूल उद्देश्य कोयला खनन में निवेश में वृद्धि किया जाना तथा इसकी कार्यकुशलता में सुधार किया जाना है। ऐसे निवेशों से अर्थव्यवस्था में कोयले की उपलब्धता में वृद्धि होगी।

Spices Board's centre in Guntur in Andhra Pradesh

898. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Spices Board propose to set up a centre in Guntur in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to impart training to farmers to prevent over usage of pesticides to boost chilly export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. The Spices Board proposes to open an office in Guntur for assisting the chilly growers specially in the areas of quality management, post-harvest handling and storage of chillies for exports.

(c) Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent over usage of pesticides to boost chilly exports include:-

(i) Introduction of integrated pest management programme in collaboration with Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS), "LAM, Guntur" to reduce pesticide residue in chilly.

(ii) Conducting programmes in Guntur, Khammam, Warrangal, Karimnagar and Prakasam districts for creation of awareness amongst the

chilly growers on quality management and improved post-harvest handling of chillies with emphasis on need based application of pesticides.

(iii) Supply of HDPE sheets at subsidised rates to chilly growers to over come problem of fungal infestation, resulting in the occurrence of afflatoxins in chillies.

WTO Conference at Singapore

899. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
DR. B.B. DUTTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the specific subjects which were discussed and decisions taken at the first Ministeral Conference of World Trade Organisation held in Singapore in December, 1996;

(b) the Indian representatives stand at the Conference on each subject; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The first Ministerial Conference held in Singapore in December, 1996 was the culmination of a series of negotiations that had taken place in Geneva prior to the Conference. The specific subjects discussed on which decisions were taken at Singapore were as follows:—

(1) Core Labour Standards:—

It was decided that the ILO is the competent body to set and deal with Core Labour Standards. It was further decided to reject the use of Labour Standards for protectionist purposes and it was agreed that the comparative advantage of low wage developing countries would in no way be put into question.

(2) Investment and Competition:—

It was decided that having regard to the existing WTO provisions [illegible] to Investment and Competition Policy and the built-in agenda in these areas, including under the TRIMS agreement, two working Groups would be set up in the WTO to examine the relationship between Trade and Investment and Trade and Competition Policy respectively. While the work of these Groups is to be reviewed after two years, it was made clear that future negotiations, if any, regarding multilateral disciplines in these areas, will take place only after an explicit consensus decision is taken among WTO Members regarding such negotiations.

(3) Transparency in Government Procurement:—

It was decided to establish a Working Group to conduct a study on Transparency in Government Procurement practices, taking into account national policies and based on this study, to develop elements for inclusion in an appropriate agreement.

(4) Trade Facilitation:—

It was decided to direct the WTO to undertake exploratory and analytical work on the simplification of trade procedures in order to assess the scope for WTO rules in this area.

(b) and (c) The stand of the Indian Delegation at the Conference, which had the approval of the Government, was to agree to the above decisions, after the text of the Singapore Ministerial Declaration had fully met India's concerns on each subjects discussed in para (a) above.

चीनी का निर्यात

900. श्री सोमपाल: क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या कृषि उत्पाद निर्यात विकास अभिकरण (एपीडा) ने चीनी के निर्यात हेतु हाल ही में कोई नई नियमावली बनाई है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा और तर्काधार क्या है?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (डॉ॰ बोला बुल्ली रमैया): (क) तथा (ख) कृषि एवं प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य उत्पाद निर्यात विकास प्राधिकरण (एपीडा) ने 2,50,000 मीट्रिक टन चीनी के निर्यात के लिए पंजीकरण-